

2005 Boat Ramp Monitor Locations

Protection

Wallum Lake

Located in Douglas, MA in the heart of Douglas State Forest, this 322-acre waterbody has deep clarity and a maximum depth of 78 feet. A 2002 plant survey showed that there were no non-native aquatic species present, and plant growth in general was scarce. This boat ramp is highly used, and due to its proximity to Rhode Island and Connecticut, draws numerous out of state boaters. A second ramp is located in Burrowville, RI.

Big Pond

Big Pond in Otis MA is fortunate not to have any infestations of non-native aquatic species, despite its high boater use. There are two ramps that provide access to the waterbody, the Big Pond boat ramp and J & D Marina. The ramp monitor divided hours between both Otis Reservoir and Big Pond.

Otis Reservoir

This large 1200-acre waterbody located in Tolland State Forest, and since the waterbody is free of non-native aquatic species, it is considered a priority protection location for the Lakes and Ponds Program. Although the waterbody is relatively shallow, plant growth is somewhat scarce. The ramp monitor divided time between Otis Reservoir and Big Pond.

Preventing Further Spread

Chebacco Lake

Located in Essex and Hamilton this 22 foot deep, 209 acre lake is a popular location for recreational boaters in northeastern Massachusetts. The lake has dense aquatic vegetation, including an infestation of Fanwort (*Cabomba caroliniana*). Although the ramp is primarily used for car top access, there is space for approximately 15 trailers. The goal of the ramp monitor at this location was to prevent the spread of Fanwort from Chebacco Lake to other waterbodies, and to prevent the introduction of a second non-native species.

Lake Cochituate

Sprawled across three towns (Natick, Wayland and Cochituate), this 650-acre lake draws over 200,000 visitors annually to Cochituate State Park, many of whom are boaters. Additionally, it is a favorite location for bass tournaments, water skiing competitions and other public events. As of 2002, this water body has had a large infestation of three non-native species; Eurasian Milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*), Variable Milfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*), and Curly-leaved Pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*). DCR's main concern is to prevent the spread of these species to other waterbodies in the area, and to educate the large number of boaters who frequent the lake.

Pequot Pond

This pond is located in the Hampton Ponds State Park in Westfield Massachusetts. A one-day visit was scheduled to inform boaters about the presence of Water Chestnut (*Trapa natans*) and Eurasian Milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*).

Quaboag Pond

Quaboag Pond is a 541 acre water body located in both Brookfield and East Brookfield. There is public access provided at the boat ramp and room for 31 trailers. The ramp monitor primarily assigned to Webster Lake spent three days at this ramp in an effort to reach additional boaters in the area.

Lake Quinsigamond

Lake Quinsigamond is a large 772 acre urban waterbody located between Shrewsbury and Worcester. Due to its size, location, very developed shoreline, presence of two boat ramps and waterfront restaurants, Quinsigamond draws a very diverse crowd, including recreational motor boats, sail boats, crew teams, jet skis and kayakers. There are several non-native plants in the waterbody including Variable Milfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*), Eurasian Milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*), and Curly-leaved Pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*). There are three main basins, and the shallow southern basin (often referred to as Flint Pond) has the greatest concentration of aquatic vegetation. The ramp monitors worked mainly to prevent the invasive species in this pond spreading to other waterbodies.

Webster Lake

Webster Lake is over 1270 acres and there is public access via two boat ramps. This waterbody receives very heavy use, especially on the weekends during the summer. Unfortunately, in addition to several species of non-native plants (Fanwort, Variable Milfoil and Eurasian Milfoil) Webster Lake is one of the few waterbodies in the state with non-native clams. A thriving population of Asian Clams (*Corbicula*) was confirmed in 2003. In an effort to prevent the spread of these clams to additional waterbodies, the Webster Lake ramp monitor informed boaters of the clams presence and emphasized the importance of disposing of bait bucket water, live well water and engine cooling water well away from shore.

Whitehall Reservoir

Located in Whitehall State Park in Hopkinton, MA, this vast 573-acre waterbody is a favorite location for fishermen. It is relatively shallow (average depth is 6 feet) and the speed limit on the waterbody prevents waterskiing and other water sports. Unfortunately, a large infestation of Variable Milfoil (*M. heterophyllum*) threatens the health of the reservoir. The goal of the ramp monitor here was to stop these species from spreading to other waterbodies in the area, and to prevent the introduction of any additional species.